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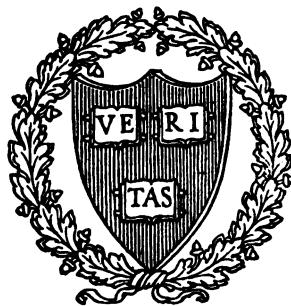
Services at Induction of W. E. Starr of
the Perform School, Westboro, 1857

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SERVICES

AT THE

INDUCTION OF WILLIAM E. STARR, ESQ.,

As Superintendent

OF THE

STATE REFORM SCHOOL AT WESTBORO',

JANUARY 15, 1867.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON,
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a. L. Endicott

WESTBORO', Jan. 15, 1857.

DEAR SIR,

At a meeting of the Trustees of the STATE REFORM SCHOOL FOR BOYS, held at their office, at the Institution, this evening, it was *Voted*, "That the thanks of the Board be tendered to the Hon. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL, Secretary of the Board of Education, for his appropriate and highly instructive Address delivered in the Chapel of the Institution, this day, before a portion of the State Government and State Board of Agriculture, numerous invited guests, and the Trustees, Officers, and Boys of the Institution; and that a copy be requested for publication."

It affords me pleasure to communicate this vote to you, and to express the hope that you will comply with the request.

Very truly yours,

SIMON BROWN,
Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

Hon. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL, Groton, Mass.

GROTON, Jan. 19, 1857.

To Hon. SIMON BROWN.

SIR,—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, requesting, in behalf of the Trustees of the STATE REFORM SCHOOL FOR BOYS, a copy of the Address delivered by me, before the authorities and friends of the Institution, on the 15th instant. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for the expression of their approbation, and I shall place a copy of the Address at their disposal.

I am, sir, your friend and obedient servant,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL.



S E R V I C E S.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the State Reform School, held at Westboro', on Thursday, Dec. 11, 1856, the resignation of Mr. JAMES M. TALCOTT was accepted; and on the first day of January, 1857, Mr. WILLIAM E. STARR, of Worcester, was elected to supply the vacancy. At this meeting it was decided that the ceremonies of inducting the new Superintendent into office should take place on Thursday, Jan. 15, 1857; and a committee of the Trustees, consisting of Messrs. BROWN, FAYERWEATHER, and FITCH, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. These arrangements were made; and the ceremonies took place on the day assigned, in the Chapel of the Institution, commencing at quarter-past eleven o'clock, A.M.

There were present some two hundred invited guests, and among them His Honor Lieut.-Gov. BENCHLEY, and the Hon. Messrs. HOWLAND and EAMES of the Council. The venerable ROBERT RANTOUL, of Beverly, one of the Building Commissioners, and a long and

earnest friend of the Institution, was not deterred by advanced age or the inclemencies of the season from being present, and manifesting his unalterable interest in this noble charity. Some of the former Trustees honored the occasion with their presence, together with several clergymen and ladies and gentlemen distinguished for their liberality and zeal in the charitable efforts of the State.

All the officers of the School were present, as well as the boys, who numbered on that day *five hundred and seventy-six*; and also their devoted sabbath-school teachers from the immediate neighborhood and from the village, some twenty in number, several of whom had scarcely been absent a sabbath for five or six years.

The boys having been previously seated, upon the entering of the officers and guests, the services were commenced with singing, by the boys, of the hymn, —

“O Lord! I would depend on thee,” —

and who were accompanied with instrument and voice by Mrs. AYRES, their music teacher.

An appropriate, fervent, and touching prayer was then uttered by the Rev. HORACE JAMES, of Worcester.

Mr. BROWN, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, then introduced Mr. STARR, the Superintendent elect, to the Trustees, to the friends honoring the occasion with their presence, to the officers and boys. To the boys he said, that “Mr. Starr had not sought the place to which he had been elected; but the Trustees

had sought him for it, believing him to be a man eminently qualified to discharge its duties. He comes to you, boys, with a loving heart, determined to do you good. You have been cut off from your natural parents and deprived of your liberties, and now placed here under the influences of correct teaching and good examples, that you may shun evil and learn to do well. In your Superintendent, and in the affectionate solicitude of his wife, you will find a parental watchfulness and love that will ever be over you, and anxious to comfort you and make you happy. They come here, with your officers and teachers, to do you good; and now you must resolve, that, in all their requirements, you will obey them with cheerfulness and alacrity. Then you can soon again go out into the world, where it will be bright and pleasant to you, and you may become good and useful citizens."

Mr. STARR then said,—

Sir,—I thank you for the kind words which you have spoken in introducing me to the people here assembled.

I thank the Trustees of this Institution for their partiality in intrusting me with the duties and responsibilities of the position which I now assume, and pray God to enable me so to acquit myself as to justify their confidence.

Officers of the State Reform School for Boys,—The partiality of the Trustees of this Institution has called me to a position, the duties and responsibilities of which I assume with great diffidence; but, looking to God for strength and wisdom, and to you for a kind and cordial co-operation, I have

withdrawn from other pursuits, and devoted myself to the duties of this appointment.

Fellow-officers,— We have a great work to perform,— to instruct the ignorant, to guide the erring, to restrain the wayward ; to minister to the health ; to aid in the formation of moral, religious, industrious, and regular habits.

And what are the motives and the means to this work ? There can be but one motive to induce a person to enter upon this work with any prospect of success ; and that is love,— love of those committed to our charge, love of one another, love of the right, love to God and love to man. The means are numerous and various ; but I shall only allude to one or two of them. We must be united : “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” Our example much be worthy of imitation, and must be the true exponent of our one great motive, — love.

This, in some respects the pioneer Institution in the New World for the reformation of the erring and wayward, has earned a reputation in the nation. Shall that reputation be sustained ?

I am happy to believe that every one of you will cheerfully co-operate with me as I shall endeavor to maintain the character of the Institution, and to forward the designs for which this great charity was founded ; and that, so doing, we may be a united, a useful, and happy family.

Friends and fellow-citizens, who have come here to manifest your interest in this Institution, and to give respectability to this occasion,— I thank you for your presence ; I thank you for showing to these boys that you are interested in their welfare ; and, in the performance of the arduous duties which will devolve on me here, I shall be sustained in no small degree by the knowledge that I have your sympathy.

To the boys for whose benefit this Institution was founded,

permit me to say, I come here to do you good. I am desirous to do you all the good I can, and to do it in the kindest manner possible. Our good Commonwealth is unsparing in her expenditures for the benefit of all classes of her citizens, and you are receiving a large share of her bounty. It is the desire of our government and legislators that you may be good boys, and that, by forming habits of industry, neatness, order, intelligence, and virtue, you may fit yourselves for usefulness and happiness.

I come among you an entire stranger to most of you, but hope not to continue so long; and I hope to find you all willing to avail yourselves of the benefits here offered you.

God grant you may all leave the Institution wiser than you entered it; that your days may be long and happy; and, above all, that you may enter that rest prepared for them that love God and keep his commandments!

A select choir of the boys then sang, in a very pleasant and acceptable manner, the sentence commencing,—

“Wait on the Lord.”

The Hon. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL, Secretary of the Board of Education, then delivered the following Address:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOOL,— Neither the invitation of the Trustees nor my own convenience will permit a detailed examination of the topics which the occasion suggests; and it is my purpose to address myself to those who are assembled to participate in the exercises

of the day, trusting to familiar and unobserved visits for other and better opportunities for conference with the inmates of the Institution.

As the mariner, though cheered by genial winds and canopied by cloudless skies, tests and marks his position and course by repeated observations, so we now desire to note the progress of this humanity-freighted vessel in its voyage over an uncertain sea, yet, as we trust, toward lands of perpetual security and peace. All are voyagers on the sea of life: some, with the knowledge of ancient days only, grope their way by headlands, or trust themselves occasionally to the guidance of the sun or the stars; while others, with the chart and compass of the Christian era, move confidently on their course, attracted by the Source and Centre of all good. And it is a blessing of this state of existence, though it may sometimes seem to be a curse, that the choice between good and evil yet remains. The wisdom of a right choice is here manifested in the benevolence of this foundation.

The State Reform School for Boys has now enjoyed eight full years of life and progress; and though we cannot estimate nor measure the good it may have induced, or the evil it may have prevented, yet enough of its history and results is known to justify the course of its patrons, both public and private, and to warrant the ultimate realization of their early cherished hopes. The State is most honored in the honor awarded to its sons; and the name of LYMAN, now and evermore associated with a work of benevolence and reform, will always command the admiration of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and stimulate the youth of the school to acquire and practise those virtues which their generous patron cherished in his own life and honored in others. Gov. Washburn, in the Dedi-

cation Address, said, "We commend this school, with its officers and inmates, to a generous and grateful public, with the trust that the future lives of the young, who may be sent hither for correction and reform, may prove the crowning glory of an enterprise so auspiciously begun." Since these words were uttered, and this hope, the hope of many hearts, was expressed, nearly two thousand boys, charged with various offences,—many of them petty, and others serious or even criminal,—have been admitted to the school; and the Chaplain, in his report for the year 1854, says that "the Institution will be instrumental in saving a majority of those who come under its fostering care." This opinion, based, no doubt, upon the experience which the Chaplain and other officers of the Institution had had, is to be taken as possessing a substantial basis of truth; and it at once suggests important reflections.

Massachusetts is relieved of the presence of a thousand criminal, or, at best, viciously disposed persons. A thousand active, capable, industrious, productive, full-grown men have been created; or rather a thousand consumers of the wealth of others, enemies of the public order and peace, have been transformed into intelligent supporters of social life, into generous, faithful guardians of public virtue and tranquillity. Nor would the influences of this degraded population, if unreformed, have ceased with its own existence: every succeeding generation must have gathered somewhat of a harvest of crime and woe. A thousand boys, hardened by neglect, educated in vice, and shunned by the virtuous, would, as men, have been efficient missionaries of lawlessness, wrong, and crime. And who shall estimate how much of an addition their reform is, in its results, to the wealth, the intellectual, moral, and religious character, of the State? The criminal class is never a producing class; and the labor of

a thousand men here reclaimed, if estimated for the period of twenty years only, is equal to the labor of twenty thousand men for one year; which, at a hundred dollars each, yields two millions of dollars. The pecuniary advantages of this school, as of all schools, we may estimate; but there are better and higher considerations, in the elevated intellectual, moral, and religious life of the State, that are too pure, too ethereal, to be weighed in the balance against the grosser possessions and acquisitions of society. We thus get glimpses of the prophetic wisdom which led Mr. Lyman to say, "I do not look on this school as an experiment: on the contrary, it strikes me that it is an institution which will produce decidedly beneficial results, not only for the present day, but for many years to come. I do not, therefore, think that it should, even now, be treated in any respect in the light of an experiment, to be abandoned if not successful; for, if the school is introduced to public notice on no better footing and with no more preparation than usually attend trial-schemes of most kinds, the probability is that it will fail, considering the peculiar difficulties of the case." Here is a high order of faith in its application to human affairs; but Mr. Lyman saw, also, that the work to be performed must encounter obstacles, and that its progress toward a perfect result would be slow.

These obstacles have been encountered; and yet the progress has been more rapid than the words of our founder imply. But are we not at liberty to forget the trials, crosses, and perplexities of this movement, as we behold the fruits, already maturing, of the wisdom and Christian benevolence of our honored Commonwealth?

We are assembled to review the past, and to gather from it strength and courage for the future; and we may with propriety congratulate all, whether present or absent, who have

been charged with the administration of this school, and have contributed their share, however humble, to promote these benign results. And we ought also to remember those, whether living or dead, whose faith and labors laid the foundation on which the State has built. Of the dead, I mention Lyman, Lamb, Denny, Woodward, Shaw, and Greenleaf,— all of whom, with money, counsel, or personal service, contributed to the plan, progress, and completion of the work.

The good that they have done is not interred with their bones; and their example will yet find many imitators, as men more generally and more perfectly realize the importance of faith in childhood and youth, as the elements of a true faith in our race. If this enterprise, in the judgment of its founder, was not an experiment ten years ago, it cannot be so regarded now; yet the public will look with anxiety, though with hope, upon every change of the officers of the Institution. The Trustees having appointed a new Superintendent, he now assumes the great responsibility. It may not be second to any in the State; yet a man of energy, who is influenced by a desire to do good, and who will not measure his reward by present emoluments or temporary fame, can bear steadily and firmly the weight put upon him. The Superintendent elect has been a teacher elsewhere, and he is to be a teacher here also. His work will not, in all particulars, correspond with the work that he has left; yet the principles of government and education are in substance the same. The head of a school always occupies a position of influence; the characters of the children and youth confided to him are in a great degree subject to his control. But here the teacher is deprived of all home influences, either for good or evil. This institution is at once a home and a school; and its head has the united power and responsibility of the

parent and the teacher. Here are to be combined the social and moral influences of home, the religious influences of the Sunday school, with the intellectual and moral training of the public school. He who to-day enters upon this work should have both faith and courage. He is to deal with the unfortunate rather than with the exceptional cases of humanity; for all these are children whom the Father of the race, in his providence, has confided to earthly parents to be educated for a temporal and an immortal existence. That these parents, through crime, ignorance, indolence, carelessness, or misfortune, have failed in their work, is no certain evidence that we are to fail in ours. May we not hope to see in this school the kindness, consideration, affection, and forethought of the parent, without the delusion which sometimes causes the father or mother to treat the vices of the child as virtues to be encouraged? And may we not expect from the Superintendent, to whom, practically, the discipline of the school is confided, one characteristic of good government, not always, it is feared, found in punitive and reformatory institutions? I speak of the attributes of equality, uniformity, and certainty in the administration of the law. To be sure, a school, a prison, or a state, will suffer when its code is lax; and it will also suffer when its system is oppressive or sanguinary: but these peculiarities in themselves do not so often, in any community, produce dissatisfaction, disorder and violence, as an unequal, partial and uncertain administration of the laws. If, at times, the laws are administered strictly according to the letter; and if, at other times, they are reluctantly enforced or altogether disregarded; if it can never be known beforehand whether a violation is to be followed by the prescribed penalty; especially if this uncertainty becomes systematic, and a portion are favored, while the remainder are required to answer strictly for all

their delinquencies ; and if, above all, these favored ones are recognized as sentinels, or spies, or informers in the service of the officers,—then not only will the spirit of insubordination manifest itself, but that spirit may ripen into alienations, feuds, and personal enmities, dangerous to the prosperity of the Institution. Here the scales of justice should be evenly balanced, and the boy should learn from his own daily experience to measure equal and exact justice unto others. I do not speak of systems of government: they are essential, no doubt ; but they are not to be regarded as of the first importance in institutions for punishment or reformation. Establish as wise a system as you can ; but never trust to that alone. Administer the system that you have with all the equality, uniformity, and certainty that you can command. As a general truth, it may be said that the law is respected when these qualities are exhibited in its administration ; and, when these qualities are wanting, the spirit of obedience is driven from the hearts and minds of the people.

But we are not to rely altogether, nor even chiefly, upon the visible weapons of authority. Especially must the mind and heart of childhood and youth be approached and quickened and strengthened by judicious appeals to the sentiments of veneration and love, and to the principles of the Christian faith. In this Institution, one serious obstacle is present ; but it may be overcome by energy, industry, and a spirit of benevolence ; though it seems, indeed, quite formidable. I speak of the large number of inmates to be superintended by one person. Men act in masses for the removal of general evils ; but the reformation of children must be individual, and to a great extent dependent upon the agency, or at least upon the co-operation, of the subjects of it. It is not easy for the Superintendent to make himself acquainted with the persons and familiar with the lives of six hundred boys ; yet

this knowledge is quite essential to the exercise of a salutary influence over them. He may be aided by the subordinate officers of the Institution ; and that aid, under any circumstances, he will need : but, after all, his own influence and power for good will be measured by the extent of his personal acquaintance with the inmates as individuals. First, then, government is essential to this school : not a reign of terror ; but a government whose majesty, power, equality, certainty, uniformity, and consequent justice, shall be experienced by all alike ; and, being experienced by all alike, will be respected, reverenced, and obeyed.

And next the social, intellectual, and moral influences of the school and the home should be combined and mingled, or else the visible forms of government become a skeleton, merely indicating the figure, structure, and outline of the perfect body, but destitute of the vital principle which alone could render it of any value to itself or to the world.

This Institution is not an end, but a means. The home itself is only a preparatory school for life. This is a substitute for the home ; but is not, and never can be, its equal. It therefore follows that the boy should be removed whenever a home can be secured, especially if his reformation have been previously so far accomplished as to render the completion of the work probable.

A great trust has been confided to the officers of the Reform School ; but the power to do good is usually proportionate to the responsibility imposed upon the laborer. In this view, much will be expected ; but the expectations formed ought not to relate so much to results, as to the wisdom and humanity with which the operations are conducted. Massachusetts is charged with the support of a great number of charitable and reformatory institutions. Their necessity springs from the defects of social life ; therefore their exist-

ence is a comparative rather than a positive good ; and he is the truest friend of the race who does most to remove the causes of poverty, ignorance, insanity, mental and physical weakness, moral waywardness and crime.

Mr. BROWN then briefly spoke to the boys of the little word LOVE, that the Superintendent had used. He told them that *love* was universal. It was *love* that had brought them here, not hate ; it was *love* to *them* that had induced these friends of various ages to come to-day to learn whether they were reaping benefits from this Institution, and among them one with silver locks, who had greatly aided this noble work, and whose zeal was not repressed by age, distance, or the inclemencies of the season. To prove this, he introduced the Hon. ROBERT RANTOUL, of Beverly, who said,—

It had been stated, by the gentleman who preceded him, that there was here a representation of the three great divisions of society,—the young, the middle-aged, and the old. He felt that he was called on as the representative of that small division, necessarily small, to which his many years of life assigned him. It is suitable, on occasions like the present, that the old and the young should meet together for their mutual improvement. He would say to the boys of this school, that the perfect order which had been preserved during this protracted session gave him much satisfaction : it indicated a good degree of self-government on the part of the scholars, and of wholesome discipline on the part of the

governors and teachers, and was but rarely exceeded, or even equalled, in many of our large common schools.

He loved to look upon a numerous gathering of children for any useful purpose of instruction or of entertainment. It calls to the recollection of the old that they were once children, and awakens and warms that sympathy which may have grown cold by constant intercourse with that middle division in life which they have passed. Let me exhort you, my young friends, not to repine at any deprivations which must necessarily attend your situation here, but that you cheerfully acquiesce, and cultivate a grateful sense of the many advantages you here enjoy, to reform whatever may have been vicious or wrong in your past conduct, to promote your virtue, and to give you that knowledge and instruction in the common branches of school learning, which will enable you, when you leave this place, to take a respectable stand in society, and, by virtuous conduct, diligence, and industry, sustain it through your lives. You are enjoying many advantages for improvement in virtue and knowledge, which many of those of your time of life, who are abroad and at liberty, do not enjoy. Let this be an additional reason for a cheerful contentment with your situation. Cultivate feelings of reverence and respect for your governors and teachers.

Perhaps the larger number who are sent here are so sent because, in the words of the law, "they are stubborn children," and do not "honor their father and mother" by a due obedience to their commands. This being the case, let your attention be especially directed to the formation of habits of reverence, of obedience, of docility, and humility; and, by your earnest, persevering endeavors, you may become established in virtue and accomplished in knowledge. "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." I commend you to the blessing of God.

I conclude by saying to this whole assembly, that this joyful occasion should call to our grateful recollection the noble, generous, philanthropic donation of THEODORE LYMAN, to the Commissioners for purchasing a site for these buildings, of a sum of money sufficient to enable them to buy the Farm on which they are erected, as well as of his large subsequent donations and bequests towards the establishment of this Institution, which his unusual modesty only prevented being called by his name.

Lieut.-Gov. BENCHLEY was next introduced, and expressed his regret that the Governor was unable to be present. He was, he said, formerly associated with Mr. Starr in Worcester, and believed him to be fully qualified for the discharge of the duties devolving upon him here. He congratulated the Trustees upon the wisdom of their choice, and then addressed a few words to the Superintendent, appropriate to his entering upon his new duties. He said a few words to the boys,— relating one or two incidents imparting useful lessons to his youthful hearers in regard to the power of example and influence, and cautioning them against evil temptations. He counselled them to be obedient to their teachers, and then they would become useful members of society.

The Chairman then introduced the Rev. BRADFORD K. PEIRCE, Superintendent of the Industrial School for Girls, at Lancaster.

In responding to the call, Mr. Peirce offered his sincere congratulations to the new Superintendent upon entering upon his delicate, responsible, and onerous but honorable office. More especially did he sympathize with the principle upon which he undertook his new labors, for no lower consideration than as affording a favorable opportunity for doing good. If a man should choose such a place, he continued, as one affording a relief from care and labor, and offering an ample compensation, without requiring great exertion on his part, it would be difficult to conceive of one more sadly disappointed upon the trial. But, as a position in which one might serve his Master, and accomplish good for his race, every intelligent Christian man in the community might covet the opportunity which the partiality of friends had afforded to them.

Mr. Peirce then addressed the boys. Referring to a lecture which he had delivered to them a few years before, illustrated with a magic lantern, he remarked, that they might recollect, among the pictures which were shown them on that occasion, one exhibiting the appearance of the heavens in the evening when the stars are visible. But, among all the constellations which were seen on that evening, there was one star which he had not shown them,—it was the star (alluding to the name of the new Superintendent) which had risen upon them to-day. Before the discovery of the mariner's compass, sailors were accustomed to steer their vessels by the stars, and travellers to mark out their courses where there were no roads. By the light of this new star which Providence had bestowed upon them, they might safely direct their course through life. It would not be like the light of a wrecker, beguiling them upon a fatal shore; but, he trusted, like the rays of the star of Bethlehem which hung over the place where Jesus was.

. It was a great thing, he said, to be a boy,— greater than to be a man. There was not a man living that could become a boy again. How many, who had made fatal mistakes, fallen into dreadful temptations, become wretched and ruined, would go back again to childhood, if they could! But youth never returns again. Every boy, however, with God's blessing, can become a good and useful man.

In order that a boy may be successful in after-life, two things are wanted. First, he should have a *fair chance*. On the morning after his lecture, he rode to the railroad station with one of the boys of the Institution. On his way, he asked him, as he was just apprenticed to a farmer living at a distance, "Will you not be home-sick?" Supposing he referred to his own former residence, the boy said, "I never had a home, sir." His parents were intemperate, took no interest in him, and never sent him to school. Before he came to Westboro', that boy had not a *fair chance*. The Commonwealth, because proper provision had not previously been made for them, had here given them all a fair chance. But it was necessary, in the second place, that each boy should resolve to make the best use of his opportunities. It was not possible to make men of them, without they tried themselves. Many a boy with a kind home, and with every opportunity to secure success in manhood, had, through idleness or viciousness, ruined himself, and broken the hearts of his parents.

Mr. Peirce then related several instances of boys who had determined to do the best they could in their circumstances, and whose efforts were crowned with success. He closed by expressing an earnest desire that the time might not be far distant when Massachusetts would give to every boy and girl within her limits a *fair chance*.

The Rev. JAMES O. BARNEY, of Seekonk, being introduced, said,—

I am aware that much time has already been spent in addresses and remarks. That which remains to me, I will occupy, with your permission, in a few words of counsel and encouragement to the boys of this Institution.

Boys, when you mingled your youthful voices in a song of praise to God, my heart rose up, with undissembled gratitude, to the same great and good Being, that he, in his kind providence, had placed you in circumstances so favorable for the acquisition of useful knowledge, the performance of Christian duties, and the enjoyment of Christian privileges.

And again my heart thanked God when your new Superintendent announced, that, though now a stranger to you, he did not intend long to remain such ; but that he would bring his whole heart into the work, and love you ; and not only he, but his worthy companion, would love you, and be a mother to you as orphan and motherless children, caring for you, and sympathizing with you in your sickness, loneliness, and trials.

Boys, there is no greater blessing ever enjoyed than to be loved by the good and the virtuous, and to share in their kind offices and sympathies. This blessing you enjoy. All the trustees and officers of this Institution love you and sympathize with you, and, in all their deliberations and doings, seek only your benefit. And, more than this, the great heart of the Commonwealth loves you, and has done for you what it has done for but a small portion of its youth : it has founded and furnished this noble Institution for your especial accommodation ; it provides for you competent officers of inspection and instruction ; it clothes, feeds, and shelters you ; it educates you in letters, religion, and business,—and asks nothing in return but that you be good and useful boys and men.

You are now in the hands of the Commonwealth ; and such is its benevolence towards you, that, if there were any situation in its power better adapted to your present condition, it would at once place you in it.

But, much as the trustees and officers, and the great heart of this generous Commonwealth, love you, there is yet another heart that loves you much more,—the *heart* of the great God ; for it is he that inclines all others to love you and labor for you. How much then, boys, ought you to love Him, who has placed you where you can attain to all that is useful, amiable, excellent, and of good report !

You have every encouragement to make great efforts for yourselves. You are, indeed, deprived for a time of your accustomed liberty ; but, if you live, it will be restored to you again ; and if you improve the means you here enjoy, of being good and useful men, some of you may go out upon the broad, blue waters, and stand in command on the quarter-deck of some of our noblest ships. Some of you may be eminent farmers, mechanics, or merchants ; others of you may become distinguished in the learned professions ; and others of you may yet lift up your hands, in the State House or in the Capitol, to make laws for this Commonwealth or for the country. There is no position in life so honorable, so sacred, so elevated, but that you may attain to it. And here let me say to you, boys, “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” by your just principles and good conduct.

When a boy less than fourteen years of age, I was thrown upon the broad ocean to mingle with sailors, then more intemperate, profane, and more wicked than they now are ; and often I was tempted to do as they did. But I as often stepped up to the side of my dear absent mother, and mentally inquired of her if she would advise her son to say or do such

and such a thing, or to go to this place or that ; and I never failed of getting such an impression on my mind as fully satisfied what was her advice. And I think it is by following her advice that I am to-day, under God, what I am, and where I am. This practice I commend to you to adopt now, and in all future life. If at any time you are in trouble, if you are tempted, or if you are in doubt, just mentally, if you have no other way, step up to the side of your Superintendent, Chaplain, or Teacher, and ask him what he would advise you to do in your circumstances ; and, when you have obtained his advice, do not argue the case with yourself, but submissively follow it. You will find that it will not only save you from much trouble, but it will bring you much peace.

Boys, I have but a word more of advice for you : oh, heed it ! Honor God, and he will honor you ; for he says, "Them that honor me, I will honor."

Mr. WILLIAM R. LINCOLN, Superintendent of the Reform School for Boys in the State of Maine, was next introduced. Mr. Lincoln had been the former Superintendent of this Institution, and alluded to the changes which had taken place in it since he left it. He spoke words of excellent advice to the boys, impressing upon them the importance of their co-operation, in order to secure to themselves the greatest benefits of the Institution.

The Doxology —

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow" —

was then sung, and the services in the Chapel were closed with a benediction by the Rev. C. B. KITTREDGE, of Westboro'.

The boys were then marshalled out of the Chapel to their respective quarters; and the guests present were invited into the West Hall, where an ample and substantial collation had been prepared. The Rev. Mr. WEBSTER, of Hopkinton, was invited to invoke the divine blessing; and then all partook in the most social manner of the repast before them.

The exercises throughout commanded the most earnest attention, both from guests and boys; and all seemed happier and better for having assisted in the Inauguration of the new Superintendent.

SIMON BROWN,
J. A. FAYERWEATHER, } Committee
JOHN A. FITCH, } of
Arrangements.

WESTBROO', January, 1857.

L E T T E R S.

The following letters have been received from gentlemen who were invited to attend the Inauguration :—

SALEM, Jan. 10, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,— Your kind invitation to be present with you and friends at the Inauguration of Mr. Starr on the 15th instant, I have received, and, while I thank you for the same, must say, that, from present appearances, it will not be possible for me to leave home, because of my daily and arduous duties among the poor, the wants of whom seem more pressing among us than for three years previous.

I should like to be at the School at the time named, because of my deep interest in it from its very Commencement; and that interest has continued to increase.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN BALL.

Messrs. SIMON BROWN, J. A. FAYERWEATHER, JOHN A. FITCH,
Westboro'.

SOUTH DANVERS, Jan. 12, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,— I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to be present on Thursday, 15th instant, at the Inauguration of Mr. Starr as Superintendent of the State Reform School at Westboro'.

Having been present at the original induction of the School, and watched its progress with much solicitude ever since; and feeling, as I do, that it affords one of the most available and desirable modes of bettering the condition of society at a moderate expenditure,— I shall be most happy to accept the invitation, and learn, from my own observation, the actual condition of this reputed Model School for erring and friendless boys. Massachusetts, and her liberal and generous citizens, have in various ways done much to relieve the wants of the degraded and destitute, chiefly having reference to adults; but in the opening of the Reform School for Boys, at Westboro', and in the establishment of the Industrial School for Girls, at Lancaster, she has capped the climax of her glory for benevolence and Christian charity.

The wise man of old said, "Many daughters have done virtuously; but thou excellest them all." So may it be said of our honored mother, Massachusetts.

With the highest respect, I have the honor to be,

Your obliged friend and obedient servant,

JOHN W. PROCTOR.

To Messrs. SIMON BROWN, J. A. FAYERWEATHER, JOHN A. FITCH,
Committee of the Trustees.

GENTLEMEN,— I depended upon accepting your kind invitation to be present at the Inauguration of Mr. Starr; but a late attack of scarlet fever renders it doubtful whether I can expose myself so far and so long at this season.

I regret the circumstance the more, as I could not take part in the installation of your Chaplain, and as I feel a very deep interest in all your movements. May God be with you!

Believe me very truly and respectfully your friend,

C. F. BARNARD.

5, Warren Street, Boston, Jan. 13, 1857.

LANCASTER, Jan. 17, 1857.

HON. SIMON BROWN.

MY DEAR SIR,— Absence from home has prevented me from sooner responding to your very gratifying invitation to attend the Inauguration of William E. Starr, Esq., as Superintendent of the Reform School for Boys.

It would have given me great pleasure to have attended, had my engagements permitted it.

I am happy to learn from our mutual friend Mr. Peirce, since my return, that the occasion was one of great interest; and I am gratified to know, also, that our kindred Institution for the other sex was so well represented in the person of our excellent Superintendent.

If any thing should be permitted to make one proud of his native State, that feeling would be justifiable while contemplating these noble charities of the old Bay State.

We trust that the Institution for Girls, located in this town, will prove as highly conducive to the public welfare as has the Westboro' School.

The statistics of the Westboro' Institution show it to have been one of the greatest utility; and its success reflects great credit upon its officers.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

WILDER S. THURSTON.

To Messrs. SIMON BROWN, J. A. FAYEWEATHER, JOHN A. FITCH,
Committee of Trustees.

~~W. C. F.~~

